He plyes the Duke at morning and at night,
And doth impeach the freedome of the ſtate
If they deny him Iuſtice. Twenty Merchants,
The Duke himſelfe, and the Magnificos
Of greateſt port have all perſwaded with him,
But none can drive him from the envious plea
Of forfeiture, of Iuſtice, and his Bond.

Ieſſ. When I was with him, I have heard him ſwear
To *Tuball* and to *Chus*, his countrey-men,
That he would rather have *Anthonio's* fleſh
Then twenty times the value of the ſumme
That he did owe him: and I know my lord,
If Law, authority, and power deny not,
It will go hard with poore *Anthonio*.

Por. Is it your deere friend that is thus in trouble?

Baſſ. The deereſt friend to mee, the kindeſt man,
The beſt conditiond and unwearied ſpirit
In doing curteſies: and one in whom
The ancient Roman honour more appeares,
Then any that drawes breath in *Italy*.

Por. What ſumme owes he the Iew?

Baſſ. For me three thouſand Ducats.

Por. What no more, pay him ſix thouſand, and deface the bond.
Double ſix thouſand, and then treble that,
Before a friend of this deſcription
Shall loſe a haire threugh *Baſſanio's* fault.
First go with me to Church, and call me wife,
And then away to *Venice* to your friend;
For never ſhall you lie by *Portia's* ſide
With an unquiet ſoule. You ſhall have gold
To pay the petty debt twenty times over.
When it is paid, bring your true friend along,
My maid *Nerriſſa*, and my ſelfe meane time
Will live as Maides and Widdowes; come away,
For you ſhall hence upon your wedding day:
Bid your friends welcome, ſhew a merry cheere,
Since you are deere bought, I will love you deere.
But let me heare the letter of your friend.

Sweet

Sweet Baſſanio, *my ſhips h*
cruell, my eſtate is very low, m
paying it, it is impoſſible I ſhou
and I, if I might but ſee you a
pleaſure, if your love do not pe

Por. O love! diſpatch all

Baſſ. Since I have your g
I will make haſte; but till I
No bed ſhall ere be guilty of
Nor reſt be interpoſer twixt

Enter the Iew, a
and

Iew. Iaylor, looke to him,
This is the foole that lent cu
Iaylor, looke to him.

Anth. Heare me yet goo

Iew. Ile have my bond, ſp
I have ſworne an oath, that I
Thou call'dſt me dog before
But ſince I am a dog, beware
The Duke ſhall grant me Iuſt
Thou naughty Iaylor, that th
To come abroad with him at

An. I pray thee heare me

Iew. Ile have my bond,
Ile have my bond, and theref
Ile not be made a ſoft and du
To ſhake the head, relent, and
To Chriſtian interceſſors: fol
Ile have no ſpeaking, I will h

Sol. It is the moſt impeni
That ever kept with men.

An. Let him alone,
Ile follow him no more with
He ſeeks my life, his reaſon w
I oft deliverd him his forfeit

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22298) LONDON, 1637 THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY (Arch